his dedication to our communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Archer many more years of continued success.

INTERNET TELEPHONY ACCESS CHARGE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to permanently prohibit "per minute," or time sensitive, access charges on Internet telephone calls. Mr. Speaker, telephone calls over the Internet—often referred to as "IP telephony" or "VOIP (voice over Internet protocol)"—has a bright future for telecommunications competitors and consumers but only if we succeed in treating it from a regulatory standpoint in a way that is consistent with the flat rate nature of the Internet itself.

The legislation I am introducing today prevents per minute access charges on the providers of Internet telephone service. This prohibition would cover any per minute access charges irrespective of whether such access charges are levied for the purpose of universal service funding or for any underlying cost of providing such access.

A little history of how we got here I believe is important. Back in the late 1980s, the Reagan FCC was poised to abandon the access charge exemption that so-called "enhanced service providers" such as Prodigy and Compuserve had enjoyed. I convened hearings as then-Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman to battle any per minute access charge on this nascent information industry. At a Boston field hearing in October of 1987, I argued to the Chairman of the FCC that it was vital to nurture and foster the development of this new industry and that the resulting rate shock from per minute fees would destroy the economic base of the information providers. I was greatly concerned that the FCC proposal would put this exciting service out of reach financially for millions of consumers.

Successfully defeating that Reagan FCC proposal was one of the key decisions in the development of the Internet. In other words, it was not by accident that the Internet has developed largely as a flat rate medium, it was by design—but not without a battle.

Recently, the House of Representatives approved a bill (H.R. 1291) that purportedly was crafted to address a "threat" that Congress or the FCC was going to impose access charges on the Internet. No such threat exists. Nevertheless many Members of Congress had received letters—generated by rumors on the Internet—about a bill that would impose a "modem tax," or a per minute fee, on email or consumers' general Internet use. This fictitious bill—sponsored by the equally fictitious Representative Schnell—allegedly aimed to impose new fees on Internet use.

The bill that the House approved however, didn't technically prohibit access charges on the Internet—the bill only prohibits access charge fees that would support universal service. It did not prohibit per minute access charges that could be assessed by local phone companies for recovering access costs

that did not go into any universal service support mechanism. Most shocking, however, is the fact that the bill includes a legislative "green light" to the FCC to support per minute fees on internet telephone calls by specifically exempting IP telephony from H.R. 1291's (albeit incomplete) access charge prohibition.

This big "legislative wink" that the bill's supporters give to the FCC, i.e., to look at access charges on Internet telephony providers may accelerate and embolden efforts by local phone companies to pressure the FCC into permitting local phone companies to assess per minute charges on IP telephony providers. Congress should not, in my view, be expressly and overtly exempting Internet telephone calls from the current access charge exemption.

Moreover, my legislation to close the IP telephone exemption contained in H.R. 1291 would also mitigate against the creation of a potentially huge privacy issue. Who is going to monitor your Internet usage to see which of your bits are email bits, which are websurfing bits, and which are bits representing telephone calls?

The bill I introduce today is designed to remedy this situation. It is based upon the amendment that I offered in the House Commerce Committee to prohibit the FCC from authorizing per minute charges on Internet telephony. I believe we need to safeguard the flat rate nature of the Internet for consumers. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues in the House will look favorably upon this policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2000 through June 23, 2000, I missed rollcall votes number 298 through 321, due to the death of my father, Albert F. Wynn. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 299, 302, 303, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 321 and "aye" on votes 298, 300, 301, 304, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319 and 320.

RECOGNIZING THE FREMONT FESTIVAL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an event in the 13th district that has become widely popular and enormously successful. The Fremont Festival of the Arts, sponsored by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, will continue for this, its 17th year.

This festival attracts over 400,000 attendees and will feature more than 750 artists, 40 culinary selections and 20 bands. This efforts is underwritten by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce and made possible by over 300 volunteers who give willingly of their time for the betterment of our community.

It takes generous and concerned individuals like those volunteers to reach out and make a

difference, ensuring promise and opportunity for this and future generations to enjoy. The spirit of community service is alive and thriving in Fremont, as in many communities throughout our nation. The City of Fremont has recently been recognized as an All-American City, an honor which was also promoted by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.

I am indeed proud to salute the efforts of the organizers of the Fremont Festival of the Arts for making my district a better place in which to live. I particularly would like to commend the efforts of David M. O'Hara, the volunteer Chairman of the Festival for his generous and untiring efforts on behalf of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2000 I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed one vote, rollcall 326. Had I been here I would have voted "no" on the passage of H.R. 4690.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained while en route from Iowa back to Washington yesterday afternoon. Due to an aircraft mechanical problem, I missed rollcall vote No. 322, the Sanford amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I also missed rollcall vote No. 323, the Olver amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." Finally, I also missed rollcall vote No. 324, the Hostettler amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZE THE CENTENNIAL OF STAMFORD, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great deal of Texas pride to recognize the Centennial of my hometown, Stamford, Texas.

On June 30, 2000, citizens in this small West Texas town will gather to celebrate this event. Founded by owners of the SMS Ranches and the President of the Texas Central Railway, Stamford will honor the Centennial with the unveiling of a large sculpture made of steel that depicts a mounted cowboy meeting the railroad. The sculpture acknowledges the two industries—agriculture and railways—that contributed to the City's founding. Citizens will also place items into a time capsule that will be opened at the Bicentennial.

I wish to include in the RECORD a brief history of the City. In addition, I want to include